Linking North-East with Bay of Bengal

1136. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state from when his Ministry is going to ply cargo vessels on River Brahmaputra under Central Inland Water Transport Corporation to link the North-East with the Bay of Bengal in promoting trade and commercial activities?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) is already operating its vessels between Kolkata and North-East (Guwahati, Karimganj, Badarpur etc.) through riverine route *via* Bangladesh, Kolkata is a riverine port on the tip of Bay of Bengal.

National Highways in Sikkim

1137. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways in Sikkim requiring urgent repair, maintenance and expansion indicating proposal made and sanction granted on each highway, sector-wise;

(b) whether BRO could not carry out the repair and double laning of NH-31-A; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Sikkim is served by only one National Highway NH 31-A with total length of 92.6 km, out of which 40.5 km is in Sikkim. The entire length of this National Highway requires expansion and a proposal for its widening to 2-lane with paved shoulders has been approved by the Government for implementation. The highway is maintained under GS funding. The repairs and maintenance is carried out by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). BRO has reported that 26 locations have been identified by them for repairing at an estimated cost of Rs. 368.93 lakh and the work is to be completed by 15.3.2008. Double laning of NH-31 A has been entrusted to National Highways Authority of India, who have taken steps for preparing Detailed Project Report and Bid Document for inviting bids on BOT (Annuity) basis.

Proposals for NHs for Uttar Pradesh

†1138. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of highways in Uttar Pradesh regarding which proposal was received by Government in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 to convert them to National Highways;

(b) the total amount allocated by Government for construction of these National Highways and the total amount spent for this purpose;

(c) the total number of proposals pending with Government at present regarding construction of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.